

*Don
McCarthy*

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
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Plea For Special CIA Committee Backed By Senate Unit's Vote

By Don Irwin
L.A. Times Special

WASHINGTON — Advocates of broader and more official ties between the Senate and the Central Intelligence Agency won an important test vote Thursday that may presage a Senate showdown.

By an 11-to-6 vote, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee killed a move to table a resolution creating a new nine-member select committee to keep the Senate in touch with all overseas intelligence agencies, including CIA.

The resolution would give the Foreign Relations Committee a window on CIA that it has vainly sought for years.

Formal Vote Tuesday

The committee scheduled a formal vote Tuesday on the resolution, sponsored by Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.). Unless at least two votes on the 19-member Foreign Relations Committee are changed over the weekend, the McCarthy resolution will pass the committee. Before it reaches the Senate, however, it must receive technical clearance

from the Senate Rules Committee.

McCarthy's proposal seeks to expand and formalize the present system, under which seven senior senators, representing the Armed Services and Appropriations committees, have served as an unofficial subcommittee on CIA.

Under McCarthy's proposal, the new select committee would be manned by three members each from the Armed Services, Appropriations and Foreign Relations committees. It would be an official Senate committee, with a regular staff, in contrast to the informal, semi-secret, unstaffed subcommittee that has performed the function thus far.

Would Check 3 Agencies

The new committee would be assigned to "keep itself fully and currently informed of the activities" of the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research.

The resolution would give the group authority to review appropriations for the agencies involved and to oversee legis-

lation co-ordinating their activities.

J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, maintained after Thursday's meeting that McCarthy's proposal would "improve relationships" between the Senate and CIA and ease "a good deal of this criticism."